

## Hairy Willow-herb *Epilobium hirsutum*

### Identification:

This semi-aquatic, softly-hairy perennial herb that ranges in height from 3-6' tall, is found in a wide range of moist soils; capable of forming monotypic stands in natural wetland areas where its aggressive and dense growth can crowd out native or beneficial species. It frequently shares habitat with purple loosestrife. Showy rose-purple flowers extend from leaf axils near the top of the plant. Each flower has four sepals, four notched petals and eight stamens. Flowering occurs in July and August.

### Potential Damage:

Capable of spreading by wind dispersed seeds, it also has a large root system that produces rhizomes, which facilitate vegetative spread. Disruption of wetland ecology leads to altering of food chains, hydrologic cycles and floral composition.

### Control and Prevention:

Take care not to drive or walk through infested areas. Stop and inspect vehicle between patrol units. MARK infested site with bright pink or orange flagging. MARK SITE on map and provide to Refuge Operations Specialist immediately upon return from field. Hairy willow-herb has not yet been classified by the noxious weed board in Washington state. However, this is because it's current distribution in Washington is limited.

### Current Status on the Hanford Reach National Monument:

Hairy willow-herb has not been recorded on the Monument to date. Hairy willow-herb has been recorded in Washington state. IT IS **VERY IMPORTANT** to record and remove this plant AS SOON AS possible after it is sighted. Please be aware and look for this plant everywhere on the monument. The goal with this plant is to keep it from occupying any areas of the Monument. Eradication of any infestation will be accomplished by Refuge Operations staff. This plant has been spreading very quickly in areas of Franklin county.

